CLAIMS:

1.   Method for the automation of availability-checking, reservation and
allocation processes for localized products and/or services, under utilization of a
supraregional communications link and on the basis of a user's requirement, the
method comprising:
a)   the user selecting a provider's product or service;
b)   the provider assigning to a requested item an authorization code
which is transmitted to the user and is stored in a memory module of the user;
c)   the provider reserving the item, storing the code, and forwarding a
reservation and code information to a code verification system, under utilization
of a local-area communications link;
d)   triggering a non-contact, proximity code verification when the user
enters within a range of the code verification system; and
e)   granting an access to the user upon a positive code verification.

2.   Method as in claim 1, characterized in that the supraregional
communications link is a mobile radio telephone network system.

3.   Method as in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the
local-area communications link is a mobile radio telephone network system.

4.   Method as in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the
local-area communications link is a local-area radio network.

5.   Method as in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the
authorization code for a particular use is issued for a limited area or time.

6.   Method as in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that local-area communications link is enabled by the user.

7.   Method as in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the non-contact code verification is accomplished by optical means.

8.   Method as in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that a code provided by the user for transmission and/or verification purposes is released by a selective activation.

9.   Method as in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the data-transfer, availability-checking, reservation and allocation or assignment processes are performed with the aid of a central mainframe processing system.

10.   Method as in claim 9, characterized in that the central mainframe processing system is equipped with data telecommunications interfaces as well as systems for enquiry analysis, availability checking, generation and transmission of product or service offers, as well as a unit for issuing and transmitting an authorization code, for communicating with the code verification and/or access-authorization release systems and, where appropriate, with product or service delivery points.

11.   Method as in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the method is used for a ticketing system for public transportation.

12.   Method as in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that, under utilization of a code and of an information related to its use, an accounting statement is automatically generated.